

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 11-20 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

Drawings

Applicants note that the Examiner has approved the drawing corrections filed on December 11, 2003. Attached hereto is one (1) sheet of corrected formal drawing for the Examiner's consideration.

Claim Objections

Claims 14 and 19 stand objected to due to an informality. The Examiner suggests changing the final word to "multichanneled." This has now been accomplished. Accordingly, this objection is overcome.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 11, 15, 16, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

By way of the present Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 15 and 20 to change "comprises" to --is-- as suggested by the Examiner. Also,

claims 11 and 16 have been amended to move the step of "providing a barrier" so as to precede the step of "changing the volume" as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, this rejection is overcome.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 11-20 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants are submitting herewith a Terminal Disclaimer to overcome this rejection, as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, this rejection is also overcome.

Conclusion

In view of the above Remarks, it is believed that the claims now distinguish over the rejections and objections of the Examiner. In view of this, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert F. Gnuse (Reg. No. 27,295) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.


Appl. No. 09/980,196
Reply to Office Action of January 20, 2004
Art Unit: 1743

Amendment filed April 20, 2004
Page 9 of 9

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fee required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By: 
Joe McKinney Muncy
for Reg. No. 32,334 #43,368

KM/RFG/gf
(703) 205-8000
0933-0177P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-07047